

2025 Impact Report

CONNECTION MATTERS

BRILLIANT DETROIT

WHERE *brilliant things* HAPPEN

POWERED BY BRILLIANT PEOPLE

A Year Shaped by Brilliant People

Dear Brilliant Family,



This year has been defined by momentum, possibility, and the powerful ways neighbors lift one another up. Everywhere we look, Brilliant Detroit's impact is deepening, rooted in partnership, fueled by community voices, and carried forward by people who believe that every child and family deserves a place to thrive. The ways in which neighbors help neighbors to drive our mission forward were on full display through the stories of several remarkable individuals at our Annual Event under the theme ***Brilliant People: Illuminating Futures, Strengthening Communities.*** You are a critical part of this family of Brilliant People.

Because of your support, we reached meaningful milestones that now serve as a launching pad for what comes next:

- **Children participating in Brilliant Hubs show an average of three reading-level gains** between kindergarten and third grade.
- **Caregivers show significantly improved confidence** in supporting their children's learning and development.
- **Families have shown an overall improved well-being,** reduced isolation, and stronger neighborhood social connections.
- **Independent program evaluation** has documented significant improvement across literacy, health, and family support outcomes overall.
- **In addition to opening two more hubs in Detroit,** we opened our first hub in Pontiac.

Each of these achievements points towards a future filled with promise. They remind us that our approach, working with, for, and by families, is not only effective but essential. They reaffirm the simple truth at the heart of our mission: when families feel love and safety, growth takes root, and neighborhoods flourish.

As we look ahead, we do so with determination and the unwavering belief that more impactful chapters of Brilliant Detroit are to come. Thank you for walking beside us, cheering for our kids and families, and investing in brighter futures across our city and beyond.

With love and gratitude,

Tarsha Gale

What follows is the story of how people: kids, caregivers, neighbors, volunteers, and partners, turned belief into action across Detroit and beyond.

Introduction — Our Path in 2025

Every Child Deserves a Neighborhood That Shows Up

Brilliant Detroit exists because too many families are navigating systems that feel distant, fragmented, and hard to access, especially in neighborhoods shaped by historic disinvestment.

Before programs. Before outcomes.

There is a simple truth: Children thrive when families feel safe, seen, and supported close to home.

Our work traces a path from families to neighborhoods to citywide impact.
What follows is a story of this impact across each of these levels.

- **Learning and literacy** begin at home
- **Belonging fuels learning** and builds neighborhoods
- Proximity in neighborhoods builds trust and **Brilliant People rise**
- Driven by Brilliant People, **our citywide footprint** expands
- At scale, we see **impact and adaptation**



"I truly enjoy Brilliant Detroit. I've made many friends and gained a support team. I fell in love with the heart of the program because they have showed me not only how to parent but how to be a family."

– Pateres Rushin

Section One — Literacy and Learning

Growing Readers. Growing Leaders.

Books are windows. Books are mirrors. But most importantly, books are invitations to imagine, to connect, and to lead.

At Brilliant Detroit, literacy is not a standalone program. It is a relationship built over time, with children, caregivers, and community.

How We Grow Readers:

1. **Access that matters**
   Children choose books they love and see themselves in.
   Families build home libraries.
2. **Literacy as a family practice**
   Caregivers read, learn, and grow alongside their children through family literacy nights, Raising a Reader, GED support, and parent learning
3. **High-impact tutoring and enrichment**
   Consistent, loving adults. Small groups. Skill-building rooted in trust.

Outcome:
92% of children in summer programming maintained or improved reading skills **by three** reading levels.



Literacy opens the door, but people hold it open.



Section Two — Belonging

Belonging is at the heart of the Brilliant Detroit experience.

Again and again, families tell us the same thing: our neighborhood hubs feel like home. Parents describe walking through the doors and immediately feeling welcomed, known, and safe, not just for their children, but for themselves. Many refer to their local hub as a "second home," a place where relationships come first and everyone is treated like family.

That sense of belonging reaches beyond individual programs and strengthens neighborhood connections. Through Brilliant Detroit, caregivers build real relationships with one another, sharing parenting advice, exchanging resources, and supporting each other through everyday challenges. What begins inside the hub often continues beyond it, reinforcing social ties and creating networks of care that families can rely on.

Our hubs become trusted gathering places within their neighborhoods, close to home, dependable, and deeply rooted. In moments of need or celebration, families know where to turn. Children and adults alike experience connection, inclusion, and the confidence that comes from being part of a shared community.

Feeling welcomed and connected is what brings families through the door and what keeps them coming back. It is the foundation for deeper engagement, stronger families, and neighborhoods where people truly look out for one another.



When people belong, they drive the way forward.

Outcome:
Families report feeling more **connected, supported, and rooted** in their neighborhoods through Brilliant Detroit.

Section Three — Brilliant People Rise

I Am Brilliant. We Are Brilliant.

Change does not arrive through systems alone.
It arrives through people who choose to show up for their block, their neighbors, their kids.

Brilliant People: Illuminating Futures, Strengthening Communities celebrated those who embody our *with, for, and, by* approach.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL BOOKLET!

"I am brilliant because I see the potential in every child."
– Candace Cooper



The city is full of Brilliant People driving change across neighborhoods.

Section Four — Our Citywide Footprint

Where Brilliant Lives.

In 2025, our map grew.

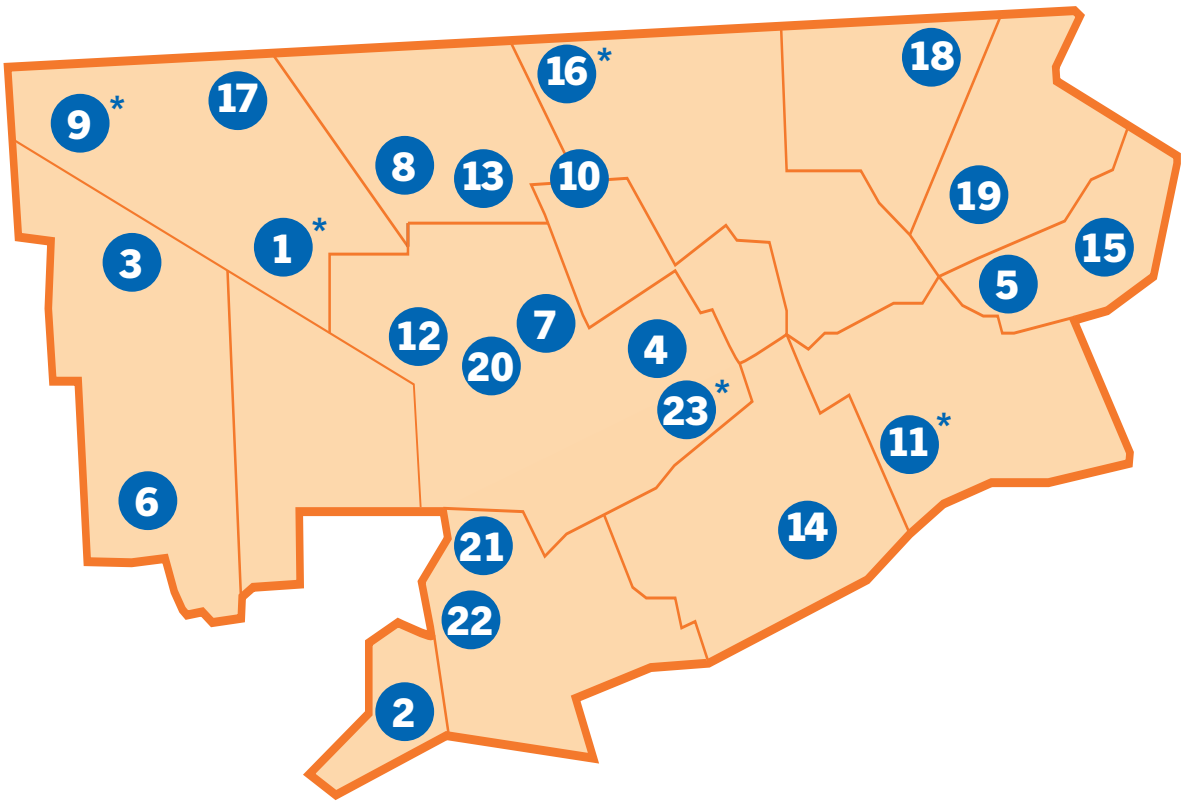
We proudly welcomed:

- Brilliant Detroit Boynton
- Brilliant Detroit O'Hair Park
- Brilliant Pontiac

Growth is not about expansion alone. It's about deepening roots.

BRILLIANT DETROIT
WHERE *brilliant things* HAPPEN

OUR CURRENT LOCATIONS



*1 Belmont: Location to be determined
Detroit, MI 48227

2 Boynton: 2430 South Beatrice Street
Detroit, MI 48217

3 Brightmoor: 15509 Heyden Street
Detroit, MI 48223 • (313) 483-8896

4 Central: 803 Hazelwood Street
Detroit, MI 48202 • (313) 483-8986

5 Chandler Park: 5312 Newport Street
Detroit, MI 48213 • (313) 528-7762

6 Cody Rouge: 7425 Fielding Street
Detroit, MI 48228 • (313) 483-8991

7 Dexter-Linwood: 2634 Webb Street
Detroit, MI 48206 • (313) 466-6269

8 Fitzgerald: 16919 Prairie Street
Detroit, MI 48221 • (313) 447-0165

*9 Five Points: 19263 Lenore Avenue
Detroit, MI 48219 • (313) 483-8992

10 Grixdale Farms: 39 Cedarhurst Place
Detroit, MI 48203 • (313) 447-0506

*11 Islandview: Location to be determined
48207 • 48214

12 Littlefield: 12789 Indiana Avenue
Detroit, MI 48238 • (313) 528-7299

13 Martin Park: 16922 Lawton Street
Detroit, MI 48221 • (313) 528-7221

14 McDougall-Hunt: 2706 Charlevoix Street
Detroit, MI 48207 • (313) 483-8992

15 Morningside: 5048 Balfour Road
Detroit, MI 48224 • (313) 528-7217

*16 Nolan: Location to be determined
Detroit, MI 48203

17 O'Hair Park: 19792 Annchester Road
Detroit, MI 48219

18 Osborn: 13800 Eastburn Street
Detroit, MI 48205 • (313) 332-1069

19 Outer Drive-Hayes: 14460 Wade Street
Detroit, MI 48213 • (313) 447-1175

20 Russell Woods: 4203 Sturtevant Street
Detroit, MI 48204 • (313) 509-3567

21 Southwest: 5675 Larkins Street
Detroit, MI 48210 • (313) 763-8623

22 Springwells: 9104 Rathbone Street
Detroit, MI 48209 • (313) 483-8668

*23 Virginia Park: 1438 Virginia Park St.
Detroit, MI 48206

BP — BRILLIANT PONTIAC: 135 Perkins Street
Pontiac, MI 48342

∗Denotes site is being renovated — coming soon.
Note: Map is not to scale, and location placements have been positioned to provide better visual clarity.

Section Five — Impact and Adaptation

What Happens When Community Leads — *Impact at a glance:*

5,000 families served this year report improved well-being, parenting confidence, and support access

3 Reading levels are gained between kindergarten and 3rd grade at our Hubs

30,000+ children and caregivers served

4,000+ volunteers engaged with Brilliant Detroit

Independent program evaluation documented significant improvement across literacy, health, and family support outcomes overall

In addition to opening two more Hubs in Detroit, we opened our first Hub in Pontiac

55,000+ program visits at our Hubs

92% of our "busy bees" did not experience summer slide difficulties in reading

250+ organizations have partnered with us

42 cities+ 12 countries are on our waiting list

Here's what is going on — right now!

Active!





Ready to open!

Active!





Developing quickly!



The Brilliant Promise

Lighting the Way Forward

Because of you, families are reading together. Children and caregivers feel more connected. Neighborhoods feel alive.

The work ahead is bold and possible

Together, we can ensure every child grows up surrounded by possibility, right where they live.



"Having my children being able to see that the world is much bigger than just our neighborhood is imperative. Having the tools to allow them to learn, interact, and connect to the world has been a game changer!"

– Brittane Royal-Harris,
Martin Park Hub participant

THANK YOU!

Visit our facebook page: @brilliantdetroit

www.brilliantcities.org/detroit

BRILLIANT DETROIT

WHERE *brilliant things* HAPPEN

Belmont: Location to be determined
Detroit, MI 48227

Boynton: 2400 South Beatrice Street
Detroit, MI 48217

Brightmoor: 15509 Heyden Street
Detroit, MI 48223 • (313) 483-8896

Central: 803 Hazelwood Street
Detroit, MI 48202 • (313) 483-8986

Chandler Park: 5312 Newport Street
Detroit, MI 48213 • (313) 528-7762

Cody Rouge: 7425 Fielding Street
Detroit, MI 48228 • (313) 483-8991

Dexter-Linwood: 2634 Webb Street
Detroit, MI 48206 • (313) 466-6269

Fitzgerald: 16919 Prairie Street
Detroit, MI 48221 • (313) 447-0165

Five Points: 19263 Lenore Avenue
Detroit, MI 48219 • (313) 483-8992

Grixdale Farms: 39 Cedarhurst Place
Detroit, MI 48203 • (313) 447-0506

Hope Village: Location to be determined
Detroit, MI, 48238

Islandview: Location to be determined
48207 • 48214

Littlefield: 12789 Indiana Avenue
Detroit, MI 48238 • (313) 528-7299

Martin Park: 16922 Lawton Street
Detroit, MI 48221 • (313) 528-7221

McDougall-Hunt: 2706 Charlevoix Street
Detroit, MI 48207 • (313) 483-8992

Morningside: 5048 Balfour Road
Detroit, MI 48224 • (313) 528-7217

Nolan: Location to be determined
Detroit, MI 48203

O'Hair Park: Location to be determined
Detroit, MI 48219

Osborn: 13800 Eastburn Street
Detroit, MI 48205 • (313) 332-1069

Outer Drive-Hayes: 14460 Wade Street
Detroit, MI 48213 • (313) 447-1175

Russell Woods: 4203 Sturtevant Street
Detroit, MI 48204 • (313) 509-3567

Southwest: 5675 Larkins Street
Detroit, MI 48210 • (313) 763-8623

Springwells: 9104 Rathbone Street
Detroit, MI 48209 • (313) 483-8668

Virginia Park: 1438 Virginia Park St.
Detroit, MI 48206

BRILLIANT PONTIAC: 135 Perkins Street
Pontiac, MI 48342